Airline Installs Air-to-Land Telephone Service

It was recently reported that radio-telephone service, by which passengers can call land numbers, is being installed by Bonanza Air Lines on its Nevada-California-Arizona system.

The flying telephone service — believed to be the first such domestic airline innovation—is the idea of R. Mohr, communications superintendent of Bonanza. Most Bonanza passenger planes in the tri-state system have already been equipped with the air-to-land telephones.

Each plane is provided one telephone. A passenger wishing to make a business or personal call gives the number of the land party to the plane's hostess, who relays it to the co-pilot. Under the Bonanza plan, all calls must be made collect. Passengers are not charged extra for the service.

Range of the air-to-land calls is limited to United States territory.